

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium with computer-readable instructions for a hardware/software interface system for a computer system, wherein said hardware/software interface system manipulates a plurality of discrete units of information, Items, said Items interconnected by a plurality of Relationships managed by said hardware/software interface system, each of said Items having a boundary comprising an item type, applicable subtype information, complex type properties and extensions if any, and a list of the other Items owned by the Item, further wherein the list of other Items owned by the Item identifies other Items the Item extends an owning relationship to, further wherein an Item that extends an owning relationship controls at least the life time of the relationship; and instructions for a hardware/software interface system to generate the owning relationship extending from a first Item to a second Item, wherein an owning relationship extending from the first Item to the second Item denotes to said hardware/software interface system that content of said second Item is publicly accessible to said first Item, and a lack of an owning relationship extending back from said second Item to said first Item denotes to said hardware/software interface system that content of said first Item is inaccessible to said second Item.

Claim 2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Currently amended): The computer-readable medium of claim 12 wherein the Relationship from said first Item to said second Item logically denotes in said hardware/software interface system that said second Item is public and accessible to said first Item.

Claim 4 (Currently amended): The computer-readable medium of claim 12 wherein said first Item is an Item Folder.

Claim 5 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 4 wherein said second Item is an Item Folder.

Claim 6 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 4 wherein said second Item is a Category.

Claim 7 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 4 wherein said second Item is an Item that is not an Item Folder or a Category.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): The computer-readable medium of claim 12 wherein said first Item is a Category.

Claim 9 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 8 wherein said second Item is an Item Folder.

Claim 10 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 8 wherein said second Item is a Category.

Claim 11 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 8 wherein said second Item is an Item that is not an Item Folder or a Category.

Claim 12 (Currently amended): The computer-readable medium of claim 12 wherein said first Item is an Item that is not an Item Folder or a Category.

Claim 13 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 12 wherein said second Item is an Item Folder.

Claim 14 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 12 wherein said second Item is a Category.

Claim 15 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 12 wherein said second Item is not an Item Folder or a Category.

Claim 16 (Currently amended): The computer-readable medium of claim 12 wherein said second Item is an Item Folder.

Claim 17 (Currently amended): The computer-readable medium of claim 12 wherein said second Item is a Category.

Claim 18 (Currently amended): The computer-readable medium of claim 12 wherein said second Item is an Item that is not an Item Folder or a Category.

Claim 19 (Canceled)

Claim 20 (Canceled)

Claim 21 (Currently amended): The computer-readable medium of claim 14 wherein said first Item is an Item Folder.

Claim 22 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 21 wherein said second Item is an Item Folder.

Claim 23 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 21 wherein said second Item is a Category.

Claim 24 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 21 wherein said second Item is an Item that is not an Item Folder or a Category.

Claim 25 (Currently amended): The computer-readable medium of claim 14 wherein said first Item is a Category.

Claim 26 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 25 wherein said second Item is an Item Folder.

Claim 27 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 25 wherein said second Item is a Category.

Claim 28 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 25 wherein said second Item is an Item that is not an Item Folder or a Category.

Claim 29 (Currently amended): The computer-readable medium of claim 14 wherein said first Item is an Item that is not an Item Folder or a Category.

Claim 30 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 29 wherein said second Item is an Item Folder.

Claim 31 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 29 wherein said second Item is a Category.

Claim 32 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 29 wherein said second Item is not an Item Folder or a Category.

Claim 33 (Currently amended): The computer-readable medium of claim 12 wherein said second Item has a Relationship to said first Item.

Claim 34 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 33 wherein said Relationship from said first Item to said second Item logically denotes in said hardware/software interface system that said second Item is public and accessible to said first Item, and wherein said Relationship from said second Item to said first Item logically denotes in said hardware/software interface system that said first Item is public and accessible to said second Item.

Claim 35 (Previously presented): The computer-readable medium of claim 1 wherein said first Item is an Item Folder.

Claim 36 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 35 wherein said second Item is an Item Folder.

Claim 37 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 35 wherein said second Item is a Category.

Claim 38 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 35 wherein said second Item is an Item that is not an Item Folder or a Category.

Claim 39 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 33 wherein said first Item is a Category.

Claim 40 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 39 wherein said second Item is an Item Folder.

Claim 41 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 39 wherein said second Item is a Category.

Claim 42 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 39 wherein said second Item is an Item that is not an Item Folder or a Category.

Claim 43 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 33 wherein said first Item is an Item that is not an Item Folder or a Category.

Claim 44 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 43 wherein said second Item is an Item Folder.

Claim 45 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 43 wherein said second Item is a Category.

Claim 46 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 43 wherein said second Item is not an Item Folder or a Category.

Claim 47 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 1 wherein each Item from among said Items has a Relationship to at least one other Item.

Claim 48 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 1 wherein a subset of Items comprise Item Folders.

Claim 49 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 1 wherein a subset of Items comprise Categories.

Claim 50 (Original): The computer-readable medium of claim 1 wherein a subset of Items comprise Items that are not Item Folders or Categories.

Claim 51 (Currently amended): A hardware/software interface system for a computer system, wherein said hardware/software interface system manipulates a plurality of discrete units of information at a hardware/software interface system level, Items, said Items interconnected by Relationships at said hardware/software interface system level, each of said Items having a boundary comprising an item type, applicable subtype information, complex

type properties and extensions if any, and a list of the other Items owned by the Item, further wherein the list of other Items owned by the Item identifies other Items the Item extends an owning relationship to, further wherein an Item that extends an owning relationship controls at least the life time of the relationship; and

the hardware/software interface system configured to generate an owning relationship extending from a first Item to a second Item, wherein the owning relationship extending from the first Item to the second Item denotes to said hardware/software interface system that content of said second Item is publicly accessible to said first Item, and a lack of an owning Relationship extending back from said second Item to said first Item denotes to said hardware/software interface system that content of said first Item is inaccessible to said second Item.

Claim 52 (Canceled)

Claim 53 (Currently amended): The hardware/software interface system of claim 51 ~~52~~ wherein the Relationship from said first Item to said second Item logically denotes in said hardware/software interface system that said second Item is public and accessible to said first Item.

Claim 54 (Currently amended): The hardware/software interface system of claim 51 ~~52~~ wherein said first Item is an Item Folder.

Claim 55 (Currently amended): The hardware/software interface system of claim 51 ~~52~~ wherein said first Item is a Category.

Claim 56 (Currently amended): The hardware/software interface system of claim 51 ~~52~~ wherein said first Item is an Item that is not an Item Folder or a Category.

Claim 57 (Currently amended): The hardware/software interface system of claim 51 ~~52~~ wherein said second Item is an Item Folder.

Claim 58 (Currently amended): The hardware/software interface system of claim 51 ~~52~~ wherein said second Item is a Category.

Claim 59 (Currently amended): The hardware/software interface system of claim 51
52 wherein said second Item is an Item that is not an Item Folder or a Category.

Claim 60 (Canceled)

Claim 61 (Canceled)

Claim 62 (Currently amended): The hardware/software interface system of claim 51
52 wherein said second Item has a Relationship to said first Item.

Claim 63 (Original): The hardware/software interface system of claim 62 wherein
said Relationship from said first Item to said second Item logically denotes in said
hardware/software interface system that said second Item is public and accessible to said first
Item, and wherein said Relationship from said second Item to said first Item logically denotes
in said hardware/software interface system that said first Item is public and accessible to said
second Item.

Claim 64 (Original): The hardware/software interface system of claim 51 wherein
each Item from among said Items has a Relationship to at least one other Item.

Claim 65 (Original): The hardware/software interface system of claim 51 wherein a
subset of Items comprise Item Folders.

Claim 66 (Original): The hardware/software interface system of claim 51 wherein a
subset of Items comprise Categories.

Claim 67 (Original): The hardware/software interface system of claim 51 wherein a
subset of Items comprise Items that are not Item Folders or Categories.

Claim 68 (Currently amended): A method for manipulating, in a hardware/software
interface system for a computer system, a plurality of discrete units of information at a
hardware/software interface system level, Items, said method comprising interconnecting said
Items by Relationships at said hardware/software interface system level, each of said Items
having a boundary comprising an item type, applicable subtype information, complex type

properties and extensions if any, and a list of the other Items owned by the Item, further wherein the list of other Items owned by the Item identifies other Items the Item extends an owning relationship to, further wherein an Item that extends an owning relationship controls at least the life time of the relationship; and

generating, by said hardware/software interface system, an owning relationship extending from a first Item to a second Item, wherein the owning relationship extending from the first Item to the second Item denotes to said hardware/software interface system that content of said second Item is publicly accessible to said first Item, and a lack of an owning relationship extending back from said second Item to said first Item denotes to said hardware/software interface system that content of said first Item is inaccessible to said second Item.

Claim 69 (Canceled)

Claim 70 (Currently amended): The method of claim 68 ~~69~~ further comprising the step of denoting in said hardware/software interface system that, due to said Relationship, said second Item is public and accessible to said first Item.

Claim 71 (Currently amended): The method of claim 68 ~~69~~ wherein said first Item is an Item Folder.

Claim 72 (Currently amended): The method of claim 68 ~~69~~ wherein said first Item is a Category.

Claim 73 (Currently amended): The method of claim 68 ~~69~~ wherein said first Item is an Item that is not an Item Folder or a Category.

Claim 74 (Currently amended): The method of claim 68 ~~69~~ wherein said second Item is an Item Folder.

Claim 75 (Currently amended): The method of claim 68 ~~69~~ wherein said second Item is a Category.

Claim 76 (Currently amended): The method of claim 68 ~~69~~ wherein said second Item is an Item that is not an Item Folder or a Category.

Claim 77 (Canceled)

Claim 78 (Canceled)

Claim 79 (Currently amended): The method of claim 68 ~~69~~ further comprising the step of extending a Relationship from said second Item to said first Item

Claim 80 (Original): The method of claim 79 wherein said Relationship from said first Item to said second Item logically denotes in said hardware/software interface system that said second Item is public and accessible to said first Item, and wherein said Relationship from said second Item to said first Item logically denotes in said hardware/software interface system that said first Item is public and accessible to said second Item.

Claim 81 (Original): The method of claim 68 wherein each Item from among said Items has a Relationship to at least one other Item.

Claim 82 (Original): The method of claim 68 wherein a subset of Items comprise Item Folders.

Claim 83 (Original): The method of claim 68 wherein a subset of Items comprise Categories.

Claim 84 (Original): The method of claim 68 wherein a subset of Items comprise Items that are not Item Folders or Categories.